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**Appropriations and Human Services Committees
Joint Public Hearing
July 24, 2012**

**Testimony on Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application for Medicaid
Low-Income Adult (LIA)**

Submitted By: Stephen A. Karp, MSW, Executive Director

The National Association of Social Workers, CT Chapter, representing over 3200 members urges the Appropriations and Human Services Committees to not approve the DSS proposed waiver to the Medicaid Low Income Adult (LIA) program.

Of particular concern to NASW/CT is the proposal's plan to count parental income for individual's ages 19-25 living with a parent or claimed as a dependent on a parent's tax return; limiting nursing home care; and the imposition of an assets limit.

Our members who work with DSS clients already are reporting long delays in having clients recertified, clients losing benefits due to DSS workers not being able to process forms quickly enough and interminable waits for Medicaid applications to be approved. Having to require all 78,000 people now enrolled in LIA to submit new information and have eligibility determined anew is a recipe for disaster and complete gridlock at DSS.

As for the counting of parental income for eligibility this does not take into account whether the parent(s) have health insurance for themselves and if so if they can afford to cover an adult child. Again, we also raise the issue of how will DSS be able to implement such a requirement given current resources and staffing?

Finally, in terms of limiting long term care for nursing home coverage to no more than 90 days begs the question what happens to the person who needs coverage for a longer time period? What plan is in place for such cases?

In 2014 the LIA program will be fully federally funded and regulated. The proposed changes if enacted will only have to be reversed in 2014. Given the economy it is no wonder that income support programs have increased enrollments however with federal funding coming in 2014 and DSS' inability to process current workloads, this waiver makes no sense and should be denied.